Maori ceremonies to welcome the new Bishop of Ripon as she begins her ministry

New Zealand Maori ceremonies will play an important part in a vibrant service of welcome and licensing for the new Area Bishop of Ripon, Dr Helen-Ann Hartley this month.

Maori chants, songs, speeches and ceremonial actions including the touching of foreheads and noses will open the service at Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 4 February at 3.30pm, as Bishop Helen-Ann, who was Anglican bishop of Waitato, is ceremonially brought into the cathedral by representatives of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. The group is led by Maori priests the Rev’d Canon Christopher Douglas-Huriwai and the Rev’d Ngira Simmonds and will also include Bishop Andrew Hedge, the bishop of Waiapu, in New Zealand, the Venerable Trevor Harrison, together with friends, former colleagues and family.

Bishop Helen-Ann is returning to the North-East of England where she grew up. She was ordained in Oxford diocese, and after a curacy there was appointed as the Director of Biblical Studies at Ripon College Cuddesdon. She moved to New Zealand in 2010 with her husband Myles who is a musician and church organist, and was appointed as Bishop of Waitato in 2014.

During the handing over, speeches in Maori will be accompanied by the singing of a traditional ‘waiata’. Then comes the traditional ‘hongi’ greeting with foreheads and noses pressed together.

The service will recognise the connections across the worldwide Anglican Communion with music and hymns from New Zealand led by the Cathedral Choir and the newly formed Ripon Cathedral Youth Choir. “I rejoice in those links,” added Bishop Helen-Ann, “and am so deeply moved that some will be making the considerable journey to be with me on the day to join in the celebrations.”

Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines, who will lead the service, said, “I warmly look forward to welcoming Helen-Ann to the diocese. Her installation and inauguration at Ripon Cathedral will involve a Maori ‘handing over’ element, and we will welcome guests from New Zealand as well as from the UK and this diocese.”

“Maori, the Bishop of Waikato is a treasure because the role bears the name of their sacred river, the Waikato,” said Bishop Helen-Ann. “They will be handing me over to Leeds, but it comes with a firm challenge to look after me otherwise they will come and take me back!”
Going above and beyond

Holy Trinity Church in Huddersfield is celebrating a small step in its ambitious five year project to invest in its future for ongoing ministry and witness in the town and beyond. The first phase of a three phase building project – to restore the south side roof – has been completed thanks to generous giving and the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £182k. For two centuries the church has been a prominent feature on the Huddersfield skyline but the “Above and Beyond” initiative aims to raise £250,000 by 2021. This is to make the building warm and welcoming, to resource mission and ministry through investment in children and families, youth and students and worship, and to resource the wider church.

Vicar, the Revd Mike Wilkins said: “As we move into our third century as a Christian community, we recognise that it is our turn to invest in the future of Holy Trinity Church and to seek the growth of God’s Kingdom here in Huddersfield. We are investing in our building, mission and ministry. Progress so far on this is good!”

Learning from our Anglican links

Bishop Paul Slater

I write this article from Sri Lanka, where I have been attending the consecration of a new Bishop for the diocese of Kurunagala, Keerthisiri Fernando. The two dioceses in Sri Lanka - Colombo and Kurunagala - have been linked to the diocese of Ripon (and then Ripon and Leeds) ever since the time of Bishop David Young.

It has been a great privilege to be involved in the kindling of this link with the new Diocese of Leeds and to find people from right across our new diocese for whom the people of Sri Lanka have a special place in their hearts and prayers. World links provide learning opportunities both in the differences and similarities of the mission contexts. The Anglican Church in Sri Lanka has had an important role in helping to rebuild the country following thirty years of civil war, which ended in 2009.

But there are also similarities from which we can learn. On a visit I made to the north of the country I met a priest, S.K. Daniel, who ministers in Kilinochchi, the scene of one of the last battles of the civil war. He and his family were directly caught up in the fighting. Now he is about to take on responsibility for two churches in addition to the three he is already responsible for. Sounds familiar?

He is training members of the congregations to lead worship: all those involved in next Sunday’s services come together to prepare. With his leadership, they look together at the theme for the Sunday and come up with a common thread for the sermon. In this way, there is coherence across the churches but room for individual expression and ministering to a particular context.

I was impressed by the importance which was placed on preparation for worship in a thoroughly collaborative environment. Here is clergy and lay vocation integrated together and something from which we can learn.

+Paul
Bishop of Richmond
(Area Bishop for the City of Leeds)
Government report commends Bradford Cathedral

BRADFORD A new report on the role of England’s 42 Anglican cathedrals as places of worship and wider community work has commended Bradford Cathedral for encouraging regeneration in the city centre by collaborating with the local community.

The report, “Cathedrals and their communities”, is the culmination of a year-long tour which saw the Minister for Faith, Lord Bourne, visit all of England’s 42 Anglican cathedrals to understand their importance to local communities and wider society. Bradford was the first cathedral Lord Bourne visited. “Efforts to bring in visitors have an impact far beyond the cathedral doors,” he writes.

“We encountered – most strikingly in Blackburn and Bradford – cathedrals driving regeneration in town and city centres by collaborating with local authorities, developers and the local community.”

Leeds Lent Prayer Diary

LEEDS For more than ten years, the Leeds Lent Prayer Diary has been invaluable in bringing Christians together in their prayers for the City of Leeds during Lent.

The 2018 edition is full of up-to-date information on over 60 ecumenical projects working in communities. They cover a broad range, including social justice, youth work, community action, arts and creative projects.

With a circulation of around 2000, the diary provides Christians from different denominations with a daily prayer focus to pray for current needs in Leeds between mid-February and the end of March.

Copies are available from collection points including the Leeds Diocesan Office, York Place, and Leeds Church Institute, 20 New Market Street.

MBE for St Aidan’s teacher

RIPON After more than thirty years teaching at St Aidan’s Church of England High School, Harrogate, Tim Pocock, says he is humbled to have been awarded an MBE for ‘doing something that I love’. The 58 year old English and Media teacher has been named in the 2018 New Year’s honours for ‘services to education and charity’. Those services have gone beyond the classroom, as he worked to establish sports groups and charitable fundraising.

“I truly feel humbled,” he said. “It’s really nice to receive this award, all the more so as it is a labour of love. I love teaching and this is a good place to do it, which is why I never left.”

New Dean

WAKEFIELD A new dean for Wakefield Cathedral is expected to be announced before summer following the departure of the former Dean, Jonathan Greener, for Exeter Cathedral. The role of dean is a crown appointment, and the process began with a fact finding visit in early January, with meetings for the public and members of the Cathedral community.

With more consultation, the process will continue for three months. An announcement is expected around May.
#Live Lent - Let your Light Shine : resources for churches this Lent

Ash Wednesday on February 14 marks the start of Lent, and this year a new set of resources are available online for individuals and church groups.

Lent 2018 - A Holy Lent of Loving, Living and Learning is a four page leaflet produced by our bishops. In this simple leaflet available to download online as a PDF, there is a prayer to be used each day, and thoughts on living out the diocesan values statement. Each of the bishops will be leading a time of prayer at one of our cathedrals or greater churches each Saturday of Lent, and the leaflet includes the times and places (beginning on Saturday 17 February, 10am at Ripon Cathedral with Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley). For more visit www.leeds.anglican.org/lent-2018.

#LiveLent – Let you light shine is an online Church of England resource offering a Lent journey through the Gospel of John, with a short daily reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and a challenge to act. It is written in simple and accessible language by John Kiddle and includes a welcome from Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The material is available online, with Apps for Android and iOS (available late January). A weekly five session Lent course that can be run in conjunction or separately to the daily “Let your light shine” material will also be available as part a range of downloadable materials to support parishes. Everything is available at www.churchofengland.org/lent. "#LiveLent: Let Your Light Shine” (112pp, full colour) books will be available at £2.99 each, with bulk discounts for parishes.

York Courses – On the Third Day is a brand new five session ecumenical course for discussion groups – ideal for Lent. Written by the former Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard, it includes a course booklet, audio and transcript. Full details at www.yorkcourses.co.uk

Hundreds of people took part in the now traditional Boxing Day Pilgrimage from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey. Leading an estimated 750 walkers from the steps of the Cathedral and out into the countryside on the four mile walk were the Dean of Ripon, John Dobson, and the Bishop of Huddersfield, Jonathan Gibbs.

The modern day pilgrims were following in the footsteps of a group of Cistercian monks who set out from Ripon the day after Christmas in 1132 AD to found Fountains Abbey. The pilgrimage ended with carols in Fountains Abbey. Dean John said, “It was the largest number of people I have seen gathering in Fountains Abbey’s cellarium for the carol service.”